

THE WEST COLUMBIA BULLETIN

worshiped God acceptably and *mindlessly*. The Bible says that Christians “continued steadfastly” in worship (Acts 2:42). It also says that the early Christians were instructed in “how” to worship, which meant that their minds and hearts had to be in it (Matthew 6:5-13; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

You sometimes hear people say: “I worship God all of the time. Every hour of every day.” Really? You worship God when you are cleaning your ears with a Q-tip in the morning? No, you worship God with intent. It’s not something you do when your mind is on something else.

We gather for worship. Here is another important point about worship that cannot be overlooked. Remember, Paul gathered with the brethren in Troas to break bread (Acts 20:7). Paul also instructs us to “not forsake the assembling” of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25). Assembling is part of worship. It is a corporate act - something Christians do together, not apart.

We worship according to truth. Jesus told the woman of Samaria that disciples must worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). When Christians worship they do not include activities that they can’t find in the Bible. We endeavor to do only what Christians did in the first century. We study the Bible (Acts 2:42), we give of our means (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), we pray (Acts 2:42), we eat the Lord’s supper (Acts 20:7), and we sing hymns (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). We don’t dance, we don’t have puppet shows, and we don’t have choirs. Why? Because none of those things existed in the early churches worship.

We worship reverently. Worship means “to kiss the hand towards” the object of our worship. It is the nature of true worship to be with reverence and awe (Hebrews 12:28).

Let us truly give ourselves to worship today.

Church of Christ

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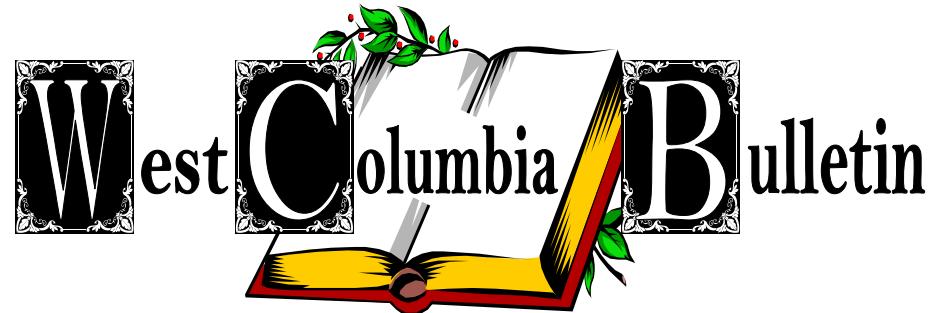
Schedule Of Services...

Sunday:

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 9:50 a.m.
Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.



July 12, 2020

WORSHIP

David Weak

Today is Sunday, the first day of the week. That means it is a day of worship. From the very beginning of the Lord’s church Christians have gathered for worship. While Paul was traveling and preaching the gospel, he paused at Troas on the first day of the week to preach and to break bread (Acts 20:7). When he wrote his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul also instructed the brethren to assemble on the first day of the week to give of their means (1 Corinthians 16). He had previously instructed them in matters pertaining to the Lord’s supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-29).

For this reason, we are

gathered together today.

Think about it, brethren. How many activities can you think of which are truly ancient? Oh, there are plenty of traditions and celebrations which go back a couple of centuries, and some much older nations can trace their traditions back a few more centuries than Independence Day. However, nothing is truly ancient, except this - Christians have assembled for worship from the very beginning of the church. This fact is comforting, encouraging, and amazing.

Here are some important particulars about worship.

First, worship is an intentional act. No one ever

What Makes The Church of Christ Different?

David Weak

Twice in the New Testament, we are told that the church of Christ is God's "own special people" (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9). The word in older translations of the Bible is "peculiar." We are a peculiar people, but in what way?

First, "peculiar" in the Bible does not mean the same thing it does in the year 2020. Today, to describe someone as "peculiar" is to brand him as odd, strange, or weird. But "peculiar" in the Bible is synonymous with "singular." It means that the "peculiar" thing belongs to only one person. This is the case with the church. While it is certainly true that the world reviles the church as odd, strange, and weird, in comparison to the churches of men, what Paul and Peter were really saying is that the church of Christ is the one which belongs to Jesus Christ. We are His and no one else's.

This makes the Lord's

church inherently different than the churches of men. They all belong to the collective. But in the sense of the Lord's church, it belongs to the Lord only.

There are a number of other traits of the Lord's church which makes it truly different.

The church of Christ has Jesus as its head. More than any other trait, this distinguishes the church of Christ from all churches. Since Jesus built (Mathew 16:18), He alone is the head of it (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18). There is no earthly headquarters for the church of Christ. There is no annual or bi-annual conference which assembles to make by-laws. No human adjudicates matters relating to the work, doctrine, and worship of the church.

The church of Christ has existed since the first century. Every church ever established by men started after the first century. There isn't one of them that can trace its origin

back to the time of the apostles, except for the church of Christ. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus promised to build His church. Then in Mark 9:1, Jesus promised a group of people that they would live to see its coming.

But the churches of men have no such pedigree. The most ancient of the churches of men, the Catholic church can only trace its heritage back to 606 A.D. with the crowning of the first pope, Boniface III. Folks, that's 573 years after the establishment of the Lord's church on Pentecost A.D. 33. Some churches of men were established within the last few decades.

The church of Christ has no human hierarchy. We have established that Christ alone is our head. I must also point out that there is no system of ranking within the Lord's church. If we could compare the church to the army, the army would make no distinction between a Captain and a buck Private. In the kingdom of Christ there are only Christians.

However, the Lord's church does have offices. There are bishops and deacons

(1 Timothy 3:1ff; Philippians 1:1). However, these offices are divinely instituted and designed. No one made them up in order to give men something to do.

The church of Christ has only one creed - Christ.

Every human built church has its own peculiar creed. What is a creed? The word "creed" is from the Latin word "credo" or "credaire" and it refers to a body of beliefs. In fact the word creed means: "I believe." if men wrote the creeds of the sectarian churches, then what is it that the members believe? Is it not the doctrines of men (Matthew 15:7-9).

However, the church of Christ differs in this matter. We believe only in Christ (John 8:24). We preach only Christ (Romans 1:16-17; Colossians 1:28). It is only His gospel which has the power to save (Romans 1:16-17). When Christians speak, they endeavor to only speak as the "oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11).

Dear reader, when you survey the religious landscape today, there is no reason to be confused. Search your Bible and then find the church that it describes, the church of Christ.